

The Voice

Edited by: Mrs. Spear

February 10, 2012

Algona High School On to State!

Tashia Lemus & Mrs. Votteler

The AHS Academic Decathlon team participated in Regional competition at Iowa Lakes Community College in Emmetsburg on January 26 and 27th. There were two teams from Algona competing with teams from two other schools. The Algona black team placed 2nd and the Algona red team placed 3rd. Seniors Nick Bitz and Alex Harms received medals for earning the 1st and 2nd highest scores among students competing in the varsity division.

Students compete in three different divisions based on their GPA. Those divisions are Honors, Scholastic, and Varsity. Each student competes in the areas of speech, interview, music, art, economics, math, sci-

State time!

Mike Vandy

On the weekend of February 5th, the AHS Speech team traveled to Spencer for State Speech. The team participated in several events during the day. Beth Benschoter says, "It's definitely an interesting group of people, but I had a lot of fun performing at State."

AHS performed well at State, receiving seven Division I's, eight Division II's, and one Division III.

The participants

ence, language arts, and super quiz, which alternates from year to year between the topics of social studies and science. Mrs. Votteler, the faculty sponsor for Academic Decathlon, says, "I am always amazed at how well our students do."

This year's individual winners, their category, division, and place are:

Speeches –Scholastic Division: Braden Menke 3rd.

Interview – Honors Division Carissa Pityer 1st, Ray Chihak 3rd, Varsity Division Nick Bitz 1st, Alex Harms 3rd.

Music – Varsity Division Alex Harms 1st, Natashia Lemus 3rd.

Economics – Honors Division Liz Burtis 2nd, Var-

will have to wait until Sunday afternoon, February 12th, to see if they are moving on to All-State in Ames. The reason for the delay in announcing All-State is because some schools were unable to attend State with the snow storm that hit the southern and western part of the state last weekend.

Good luck to all those in the waiting and congrats to those who have had a great season.

sity Division, Alex Harms 1st, Nick Bitz 2nd, Elijah Banwart 3rd.

Mathematics –Scholastic Division Abby Smith 1st, Shelbi Schadendorf 2nd, Jonathan Wichtendahl 3rd, Varsity Division – Nick Bitz 1st.

Science – Scholastic Division Braden Menke 1st, Varsity Division Nick Bitz 1st, Alex Harms 2nd.

Language Arts – Honors Division Liz Burtis 3rd, Scholastic Division Braden Menke 3rd, Varsity Division Alex Harms 2nd, Elijah Banwart 3rd.

Written Super Quiz – Scholastic Division Hanna Harmon 2nd.

Algona High School scored well enough and qualified to take one Academic Decathlon team to compete in the small schools division at the State level. Iowa Academic Decathlon will be held on March 2 and 3rd in Johnston, Iowa.

The 2012 AHS State Academic Decathlon team members include: Jack Ralls, Krystyna Diggins, Braden Menke, Hanna Harmon, Abby Smith, Shelbi Schadendorf, Nick Bitz, Alex Harms, and Elijah Banwart. Alternates competing for individual honors are: Jonathan Wichtendahl, Corinne Schipull, and Ray Chihak.



Algona High School Movie day

Taylor Setzer

History teacher Brian Connick was joined by two classes of his Western Civilization students and one class of his World War II students to watch the movie *Red Tails* last Friday, February 3rd.

The movie has a good historical background about WWII. *Red Tails* tells the story of the Tuskegee Army.

The movie is about a group of black pilots who get little recognition and receive many challenges at first. Then, throughout the

Moving on

Zach McKenna

The Algona wrestlers have had a tremendous wrestling season this year. Coach Morgan has led the Bulldogs to a Conference championship and a great performance at Sectionals.

The Bulldogs finished second at Sectionals, which was hosted at home on Saturday, February 4th. Placing second advanced them on as a team to Regionals to qualify for State duals.

The Algona Bulldogs wrestled two tough teams on Tuesday at Regionals. Their first dual was against Perry, who they beat. After beating Perry, they had to wrestle Webster City. That is when the Bulldogs ended their season.

Individually at Sectionals, Algona had three wrestlers crowned as champions: Jake Adams, Weston Shaw, and Nick Buchanan.

movie, they start to prove themselves and receive a huge mission to escort bombers to Berlin. After the mission, most of the men return home unharmed, with only a couple deaths.

The movie was watched at the Algona State Five Theater. Students were asked to pay five dollars for their tickets. When asked about the trip, senior Sam Curtis said, "It was a good movie and I learned a lot."

The other wrestlers placing second and making it to Districts were Austin Long and Joe Teague. Unfortunately, Joe Teague broke his hand in his wrestling match on Tuesday, February 7th, and can no longer wrestle this season.

The four AHS/NSK wrestlers will be battling at Districts on Saturday, February 11th, in Forest City, Iowa. In order to make it to the State tournament, the wrestlers will have to place first or second at Districts in Forest City.

"I am glad to have this chance to make it to State for my senior year. It's going to be a real barnburner," says Nick Buchanan.

Right: Nick Buchanan faces off against an opponent at Sectionals.

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Brian Morgan

Micah Lavrenz

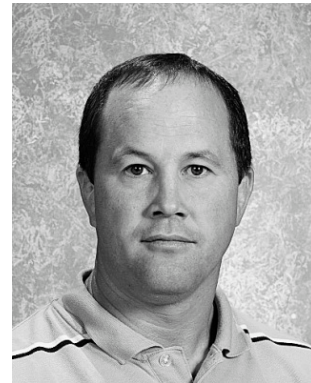
This week's teacher spotlight is on Mr. Morgan. Morgan graduated from Plainfield High School in 1992. After high school he attended Wartburg College, where he earned his BS in Secondary Education. After that he earned his MS in Administrative Leadership from Buena Vista.

Mr. Morgan has been teaching for 15 years. His first teaching job was at Aurelia High School from 1997 to 2001. He is now currently the World History and American Studies teacher at AHS and has been since 2001. Morgan also is the

head wrestling coach here at AHS.

Mr. Morgan chose to be a teacher because of the influences that many of his past teachers and coaches had on him. He has stayed with teaching because he enjoys the day to day growth, changes, and challenges.

In Morgan's free time, he likes to spend time with his family. His wife, Summer, works at Kossuth Regional Health Center. They have three children, Bennita, nine; Barrett, four; and Brooks, two. He also likes to show horses, work out, and work outside.



Sports

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Algona High School Shootin' hoops

Rachel Feuring

This year, the AHS girls' basketball team has been dominating with 13 wins and 7 losses this season. They are currently sitting in 2nd place in the NCC.

Their game at St. Edmonds in Fort Dodge was on January 27. The girls fought hard but lost 25-50. The score was 6-11 in the first quarter, they gained on them in the second, but then they lost the game in the end.

The girls made a comeback in the game against Clarion-Goldfield on January 30th. The game was close, ending with a 47-43 final score. In the first quarter, they were behind but then came back in the fourth quarter to win the game.

Algona won against Garrigan with a final score of 42-39. The girls had a great rebound and defense in this game. Tangy Wiseman lead with 12 points in this game. The girls were leading the whole game.

Rollin' along

Janet Hofmann

On January 27, the Bulldogs played St. Edmond at home, falling to the Gaels 44 - 80. Both Sam Curtis and Sawyer Frideres scored 14 points each, earning more than half of the Bulldog points for the night. Sam Lipps pulled down eight rebounds while Frideres and Cole Nielsen closely followed with five each.

On Monday, January 30, Algona played a make up game against the Clarion-Goldfield Cowboys. The Bulldogs dominated, outscoring the Cowboys 59

They traveled to Hampton-Dumont on Friday, February 3rd. They worked hard but lost 47-63. Tangy Wiseman led the team with 16 points. Katlyn Loesch and Heather Ziesman added in 5 rebounds a piece.

For the pink out game on Tuesday, February 7th, they hosted Humboldt. The girls tried hard, but just couldn't get the shots to sink, losing 29-33. Tangy Wiseman and Jade Simpson led the team with 6 points a piece, followed by Rachel Teague with 5.

Tonight they host their last regular season game against Webster City.

The basketball team is quickly approaching the Regional rounds, starting on Wednesday, February 15. For the first round they travel to Spirit Lake for a 7:00 p.m. game. Spirit Lake has been rated as high as #12 in the state. The second round will

- 28. Sam Lipps scored 18 points and had four blocks, along with 11 rebounds. Sawyer Frideres followed Lipps in scoring with 14 points. Nielsen pulled down eight blocks for the Bulldogs, while Dylan Cink helped out with five assists and four steals.

A cross-town rivalry game at Bishop-Garrigan took place on January 31. The Bulldogs won bragging rights with a 68 - 55 win over the Golden Bears. Sam Lipps led with 15 points, Sawyer Frideres with 14, followed by



Left: Jade Simpson goes up for the jump against Humboldt.

Photos by Jim Gale

Below: Justin Raymond dribbles up the court against Humboldt.

be held on Saturday, February 18, at AHS, starting at 7:00. Second round will feature either Algona or Spirit Lake against the winner of Wednesday's Iowa Falls / Clear Lake game. The Regional finals will be held on Tuesday, February 21. Good luck girls!



Cole Nielsen with 12. Lipps brought down a whopping 18 rebounds, with Sam Curtis and Dylan Cink both with eight. Curtis dished out six assists while Cink had five. The win of the night brought the Bulldogs to 9 - 8 overall.

Algona traveled to Hampton on February 3 for a Bulldog match-up. Algona beat Hampton-Dumont 58-47. Sam Lipps scored almost half the points alone for his team, with 28 total points and also pulled down 10 rebounds. Sawyer Frideres followed Lipps in both statis-

tics with 12 points and nine rebounds.

February 7 found the Bulldogs matched up against the Humboldt Wildcats, which resulted in a loss. Statistics were unavailable.

When asked what his favorite part of the season so far was, Senior Nathan Simpson said, "It was definitely when we beat Garrigan."

The next game the boy's basketball team will play is tonight at home, against Webster City. Get out and support the Bulldogs!

Test your knowledge Working hard for a

Jessica Mueller

On December 10th, the AHS Quiz Bowl team went to the South O'Brien annual quiz bowl tournament. Both teams from Algona finished the preliminary play with a 3-1 record and captured the 5th seed from the 18 who participated.

Algona's Varsity team consisted of Jonathan Wichtendahl, Elijah Banwart, Matt Stein, and Tom Burtnett. They defeated teams from South O'Brien, West Bend Mallard, and Boyden-Hull.

The Junior Varsity

Super Bowl XLVI

Dylan Cink

It's that time of year again, Super Bowl time. This year's teams featured the New England Patriots and the New York Giants. The Patriots came into the game with a record of 15-3 while the Giants had a record of 12-7.

In 2008, these same two teams met each other in the Super Bowl. The Giants, who had a 13-6 record, beat the Patriots, who had a 18-0 record. The Giants came back from being down 10 points to beat the Patriots 17-14.

The New York Giants had a tough road to get to the Super Bowl. First, they had to beat the Atlanta Falcons in the Wild Card game, then beat the 15-1 Green Bay Packers, and finally beat the 13-3 San Francisco 49ers. As you can see, they were very deserving to play in this game.

The New England

team consisted of Jacob Kofoot, Jack Ralls, Mike Etler, and Blake Bradley. They defeated teams from Mars Gehlen and Boyden-Hull. Jacob Kofoot says, "Quiz Bowl is a good way to learn something new and have fun doing it."

AHS traveled to Sioux Central on January 14th. Jonathan Wichtendahl, Elijah Banwart, Matt Stein, and Tom Burtnett were on the Varsity team. Jacob Kofoot, Jack Ralls, Mike Etler, and Blake Bradley were on the Junior Varsity.

Patriots didn't have the easiest road, either. They had to beat Tim Tebow and the Denver Broncos and the hot Baltimore Ravens. The Patriots were favored in the game by 3 1/2 points.

The game took place in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. Game time was at 6:30 p.m.

Some notable non-football related highlights were Kelly Clarkson singing the National Anthem, Madonna singing at halftime, and, as always, the famous commercials.

The game ended up coming down to the last second, but the Giants overcame the Patriots and won the game by a score of 21-17. Eli Manning was named MVP, passing for 296 yards and one touchdown.

good time!

Jackie Brunow

The junior class and their parents this year have been busy raising money for prom. There are two different funds for prom. There is money needed for the school portion, which covers the decorations and such. After prom funds cover entertainment and prizes and is run by the junior class parents.

The class did a Schwann's fundraiser for prom and made about \$1,500. The prom fund is currently a little less than \$3,000.

For after prom they did some concession stands at home basketball games. They also did free throw shots during half time of a boys' basketball game. People paid a dollar and if you made it, then you got two dollars back. If you missed, you donated your dollar.

They also hosted a speech desert theater. There they had ice cream with toppings while people watched some speech groups present their pieces. There was a free will donation taken for after prom.

The junior class and their parents have been working hard before school started as well. They did concession stands for RAGBRAI, in Whittmore. They also earned money with a beef burger supper.

Overall the junior class has made around 3 thousand dollars towards after prom this year.

Prom this year will be held on Saturday, April 14th, at Algona High School. The theme this year is Starlit Paradise.

Conferences

Katie Riley

The next parent teacher conferences at AHS are being held on Monday, February 27, 2012. Conferences will take place from four to seven p.m. that night.

All parents are encouraged to come to the conferences for their kids. Students are also encouraged to join their parents at these conferences. There is only one night for conferences at this time.

There is another day

on April 2, 2012, for conference make ups, or if you and your family are not able to attend on February 27.

Jacob Kofoot says, "Conferences are a good way for parents to talk to their children's teachers so they can help them improve. I really hope my conferences turn out well."

Make your calendars to attend one of these two nights and hope to see you there!

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Kingdoms of Amalur Reckoning

D.J. Throckmorton

Kingdoms of Amalur is a new fantasy open world role playing game, RPG, by 38 Studios. It includes a star-studded development cast including former EverQuest designer Travis McGeathy, the Elder Scrolls' Ken Rolston, Todd McFarlane, and fantasy novelist R.A. Salvatore.

The game starts with your character's death and resurrection. Your corpse has been tossed on top of a pile of bodies. You reawaken

to be told that you are the only one to have successfully been brought back from the dead. Unlike the other citizens of Amalur who live out their lives defined by fate, you are no longer bound to the law's destiny and can also change the fate of those around you.

In this game, classes do not matter as much as in other RPGs. Often times during interviews, when asked why they did not set up fixed classes, the creators

said things like, "We did not wish to constrict the player as much as in other games. These days people want freedom." "We didn't want to stick a player with a certain type of character only to have them find they do not like how it handles."

The 10,000 years of back story that was put into the game was written by the fantasy writer R.A. Salvatore, writer of the demon wars sagas and the Drizzt series. One of the lead devel-

opers who helped in the creation of the game *Oblivion* leads in this project as well.

The game is not without its critics. Some say it looks too much like *WOW*, *World of Warcraft*. Others wonder if it will be any good since it is made by an untested company.

Whatever the issues, the game is worth at the very least a look.

The Women in Black

Jeremy Black

You can go to the Algona movie theater and watch a movie called *The Women in Black*. The movie is about Arthur Kipps, a widowed lawyer whose grief has put his career in jeopardy. Kipps is sent to a remote village to sort out the affairs of a recently deceased eccentric. But upon his arrival, it soon becomes clear that everyone in the town is keeping a deadly secret. Although the townspeople try to keep Kipps from learning their tragic history, he soon discovers that the house belonging to his client is haunted by the ghost of a woman who is determined to find someone and something she

lost. No one, not even the children, are safe from her vengeance. The stars in this movie are Daniel Radcliffe, Janet McTeer, and Ciaran Hinds.

The movie was made after the book and honestly, the book is better. A lot of people who went to the movie and read the book have that statement. "Don't go to the movie. It's a waste of seven dollars and your time!" Bronson Jergenson said. The movie runs for roughly an hour and a half. This PG13 movie somehow was rated at a 7.4.

Source: http://www.cinemark.com/movie-detail.aspx?node_id=59724

Chronicle

D.J. Throckmorton

Chronicle is a drama/science fiction/thriller movie directed by Josh Trank, *Back to School*. It stars Dane DeHaan as Andrew Detmer, Alex Russell as Matt Garretty, and Michael B. Jordan as Steve Montgomery.

Chronicle tells the

story of three high school students who develop telekinesis after crawling into a strange tunnel near a party. Instead of using their powers to fight crime, they use them to play practical jokes. They soon find out that their powers are like a muscle which

Blue Mountain State

Sam Curtis

Blue Mountain State is a hilarious TV show on Spike that is about the players of a powerhouse football school. The show is mainly featured off of the field, but it will show clips of them at practice every once in a while. The show portrays an unrealistic view of college, with the players going out every night.

Blue Mountain State stars Alan Ritchson and Darin Brooks. Alan Ritchson plays the role of Thad Castle, a "dumb jock" linebacker. Thad was a junior in the first season of *BMS*, and in the third season he was able to come back to school because he got in trouble with the law before he could enter

the NFL draft. Darin Brooks plays Alex Muran, the new starting quarterback for the school.

When Alex heard the news at the beginning of the third season, he was actually upset. Alex had enjoyed the last two years of second string quarterback because he didn't have to do much but he was still able to get girls.

The end of the third season brought hope to *BMS* fans of another season, and everyone hopes that they will find another way to incorporate Thad Castle into the show again, and Dylan Cink says, "BMS is my dream college."

must gradually be stretched and worked. But as the trio "stretch" and strengthen their powers, Andrew (Dane DeHaan) begins to use his powers to try and mend his unstable and abusive home life in violent ways.

Chronicle is rated PG-13 with a running time of one hour and 47 minutes. It is now playing in select theaters. So if you want to see a superhero without the hero movie, go and see *Chronicle*.

NWTF Banquet

AJ Wagner

The East Fork Long Beards had their National Wild Turkey Federation banquet. This banquet was on Saturday, February 4th. During this banquet there were games for the kids to play, live auctions, silent auctions, a women's table, upper tier and lower tier tables, and lots of hunting gear, guns, hunting prints, furniture, food seasonings, and knives. There was a blackjack table where you could play and win a gun or gift cards.

Before all the auctions started, there was a meal. The meal was ham slice, potatoes, green beans,

and biscuit.

At the banquet there were upper tier, middle tier, and lower tier prizes. There was a live auction where you could bid on different prints and sculptures. The silent auction included the gun of the year, which was a browning semi auto 20 gauge. The knife raffle gave attendees a chance to win a print.

Cory Kruse said, "It was awesome because I won the gun of the year!"

Frostbite Olympics

Kuleen Parsons

On February 17 through the 18, the Frostbite Olympics are taking place in the great town of Algona. This will be the fourth annual Frostbite Olympics. The Chili Cook Off will be taking place at the KC Hall on Friday, at 6:00 pm, the cost will be five dollars.

On Saturday, starting at 8 am at the Algona YMCA, is the Indoor Triathlon. At the Shelter House from 10:30 to 11:30 there will be the Frosty Festival for all ages! The Youth Blizzard Bake Off for everyone 18 and younger is also on Saturday. For lunch on Saturday there will be a hot dog meal at the Veteran's Park Shelter House at 11:45. The Snowball Softball Tournament will be taking place at Veteran's Park from 12:00 to 5:00 pm. There

will be snowmobile rides at Vet's Park from 11:00 to 2:00 pm. At 11:30 am there will be the Frostbite Treasure Mountain.

For more information about the events, go to <http://www.ci.algona.ia.us/>. Also don't forget to buy a ticket to guess the date and time the car on Smith Lake will fall through the ice! Don't let the cold and snow keep you from enjoying the Frostbite Olympics!



MAP testing!!

Megan Crosser

This week, MAP testing for the second and last time this year is taking place. MAP testing is being run throughout the day for all grades, except seniors. It has been taking place in both computer labs in the high school and middle school all week, concluding today.

Each grade will take three tests throughout the week, one each day. Nick Buchanan said, "It's nice that we don't have to do it anymore."

The schedule for the week is as follows: Monday 8:20 to 9:20 juniors had reading A-K in the high school and L-Z in the middle school. Sophomores had Reading A-Meyer from 2:20 to 3:20 in the high school and Miller-Z were in the middle school. Tuesday, sophomores A-Meyer had Math from 8:20-9:20 in the high school while Miller-Z were in the middle school. Juniors A-K had Math from 9:20 to 10:20 in the high school and L-Z were in the middle school. Fresh-

men A-M had Math from 2:20 to 3:20 and N-Z were in the middle school. On Wednesday, sophomores A-Meyer had Language from 9:20 to 10:20 and Miller - Z were in the middle school. Juniors A-K had Language from 10:20 to 11:20 in the high school while L-Z were in the middle school. Thursday, freshman A-M had Science from 9:20 to 10:20 in the high school, juniors A-K had Science from 12:20 to 1:20 in the high school, and sophomores A-Meyer had Science 1:20 to 2:20 in the high school. Lastly, today, Friday, freshman N-Z have Science 9:20 to 10:20 in the high school, juniors L-Z have Science 12:20 to 1:20 in the high school, and sophomores Miller -Z have Science 1:20 to 2:20 in the high school.

Each student is presented their results after each test. Copies of your scores will be given to parents at parent teacher conferences, which will be held on February 27th.

Senior spotlight

Sawyer Brandt

Zach McKenna, a 17 year old senior at Algona High, was born in Fort Dodge, Iowa, at the local hospital. He lives about ten miles south of Algona with his mother, father, a brother, as well as a sister. He also has a yellow lab named Buddy, who is very well trained. Zach said, "He's so smart. He will shake when you don't ask, he will train you." Also, when Buddy is called the family pet, Zach replies, "No, he is not the family pet,

he is mine."

Zach's favorite thing about being a senior is the fact that he has a double lunch. He really enjoys food, so having two periods for lunch is very convenient. When he isn't at school, he spends a lot of time farming or hanging out with his friend Dylan Cink. They go to the movies and play basketball.

After high school Zach plans to attend college with his friend AJ Wagner.